

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /083 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S: LMACFARLANE/L/HR:CRUNYON:GFH
APPROVED BY AF: DON PETTERSON
HA: RMAXIM (SUBS)

-----098253 130217Z /14

P R 122316Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SHUM, SOCI, SF

SUBJECT: CROSSROADS DEMOLITION

REF: A. CAPE TOWN 1467, B) PRETORIA 4760, C. PRETORIA 4915

1. DEPARTMENT INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT SAG ACTIONS
RE CROSSROADS, AND IMPACT THAT ACTIONS TAKEN THUS FAR
AND PROJECTED END-OF-RAINY-SEASON RAZING OF ENTIRE
COMMUNITY MAY HAVE ON FUTURE COURSE OF US-SA RELATIONS.
DEPARTMENT NOW SEES VARIOUS INDICATIONS THAT CROSSROADS MAY
BECOME FOCUS OF SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL
ATTENTION, POSSIBLY GIVING RISE TO NEW AND MORE INSISTENT
DEMANDS FOR FURTHER REASSESSMENT OF US POLICY AND ADDITIONAL
ACTIONS AGAINST SAG. WE SEE SUBSTANTIAL POSSIBILITY THAT
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THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL REACTION AS WELL
SHOULD SAG GO FORWARD WITH PLANS TO DESTROY CROSSROADS
COMMUNITY.

2. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, DEPARTMENT COMMENDS EXCELLENT
MISSION REPORTING ON CROSSROADS ISSUE TO DATE, AND BELIEVES
IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FOLLOWED CLOSELY. NOTING CAVEAT

PARA 3 REF B, DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE FURTHER

EMBASSY CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER AND HOW SAG MIGHT BE
DETERRED FROM FURTHER ACTION ON CROSSROADS. UNLESS YOU
PERCEIVE OBJECTION, REQUEST YOU CONSULT INFORMALLY AT
APPROPRIATELY EARLY OPPORTUNITY WITH OTHER WESTERN
MISSIONS WITH VIEW TO ELICITING NON-US EXPRESSIONS OF
CONCERN. WHILE NO FURTHER SPECIFIC DEMARCHE TO SAG REQUESTED
AT THIS TIME, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE POINT INFORMALLY
TO SAG OFFICIALS, AS OCCASIONS PERMIT, THAT PLANNED
ACTION AGAINST CROSSROADS WILL BE WIDELY VIEWED IN US
AS UNNECESSARY AND INHUMANE ACT WHICH IS LIKELY TO HAVE
ADVERSE IMPACT ON US-SAG RELATIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE CONGEN CAPE TOWN'S BEST
ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF FAMILIES PRESENTLY LIVING AT CROSS-
ROADS. IF WIVES AND CHILDREN OF MEN EMPLOYED IN CAPE
TOWN AREA WERE RETURNED TO HOMELANDS IN CONFORMITY WITH
CURRENT SAG POLICY AND HUSBANDS REMAINED IN CAPE TOWN,
ABOUT HOW MANY FAMILIES WOULD BE SEPARATED? HOW MANY
CHILDREN WOULD BE AFFECTED?

4. REQUEST THAT EMBASSY OR CONGEN CAPE TOWN AIR POUCH
COPY OF UCT SURVEY MENTIONED IN PARA 11 REF C AND TEXTS
OF OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, IF READILY AVAILABLE, SUCH AS ANY
BY VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MARAIS STEYN, P.W. BOTHA, AND
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CONNIE MULDER. TEXTS OF APPEAL TO SAG BY MAYOR AND
CAPE TOWN CITY COUNCIL AND OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT
CAPE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL.
CAN YOU REFER US TO ANY SORT OF GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER, BLACK
SASH ANALYSIS, OR IN-DEPTH NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE FEATURE
ARTICLE?

5. WITH RESPECT TO FAMILIES ALREADY ENDORSED OUT,
MIGHT PUBLIC MEDIA (DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN) BE EXPECTED
TO COVER ACTUAL PROCESS OF FIRST STAGES OF SETTLEMENT IN
TRANSKEI OR ELSEWHERE? BEARING IN MIND HOW MOST PERSONS
REMOVED FROM MODDERDAM AND OTHER CAMPS MANAGED
TO STAY IN THE CAPE TOWN AREA, WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF
LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SAG MIGHT DECIDE TO ACCOMPLISH ITS
AIM OF RELEGATING WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO HOMELANDS THROUGH
NEW MEASURES, SUCH AS ESCORTED COMPULSORY RELOCATION?
WHAT OTHER STEPS MIGHT SAG TAKE?

6. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THAT POSTS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO
RESPOND TO ALL OF ABOVE QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY BUT HOPES
THAT ANSWERS TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WILL BE CABLED
SOONEST. AS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING CONCERN IN U.S. AT

CROSSROADS SITUATION, WHILE THIS TELEGRAM WAS BEING DRAFTED, DEPARTMENT LEARNED THAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL PERMIT MEMBERS TO MAKE STATEMENTS CONCERNING CROSSROADS, AND IN COMMEMORATION OF BIKO, AT CLOSE OF SESSION SEPTEMBER 12. A NUMBER OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING MAGUIRE, ANDERSON, AND RODINO WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 13 AT WHICH THEY WILL PRESENT A JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING THE PLANNED DESTRUCTION OF CROSSROADS. FURTHERMORE, A 35-MINUTE COLOR FILM DOCUMENTING CROSSROADS SITUATION IS CURRENTLY BEING SCREENED PRIVATELY IN WASHINGTON (INCLUDING WITHIN DEPARTMENT). FILM IS EFFECTIVE PORTRAYAL OF ISSUE WHICH LAYS HEAVY STRESS ON HARSHNESS AND INCONSISTENCIES IN SAG POLICIES, CONTAINS FOOTAGE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREVIOUS DESTRUCTION OF OTHER SQUATTER COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN CAPE, AND PORTRAYS CROSSROADS AS FUNCTIONING, SOCIALLY INTEGRATED COMMUNITY. WE UNDERSTAND OTHER SCREENINGS PLANNED ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE TV PLACEMENT, ALL OF WHICH WILL ADD TO HEIGHTENED PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CROSSROADS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, SQUATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE231236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LMACFARLANE/L/HR:CRUNYON:GFH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780371-0718
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780975/aaaacjwx.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aee7df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAPE TOWN 1467, 78 PRETORIA 476, 78 PRETORIA 4915
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1462127
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CROSSROADS DEMOLITION
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SHUM, SOCI, SF
To: PRETORIA CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aee7df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014